

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Wednesday, April 18, 2012
McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Present: Chairman Berthiaume, Vice Chair Pepe, Clerk Woodbury, Members Durant & Fritze, Administrative Assistant Torti

Mr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Town Administrator Evaluations: Mr. Berthiaume collected the Board's evaluations. He noted that he and the Vice Chair would compile and summarize the information which would then be presented at the next Business Meeting.

Discussion: Sex Offender Residency Zones: At the request of Vice Chair Pepe, the Board reviewed a bylaw from the Town of Webster which creates "safe zones" around certain locations such as schools, churches, day care centers, and elderly housing complexes. The bylaw defines the number of feet that registered sex offenders must refrain from residing within near these locations. The Board held a general discussion on this matter and decided to obtain a map of Spencer with specific locations noted and various distances marked out so that the restricted areas could be determined and reviewed. It was also noted that residents who are registered sex offenders who already live in town were grandfathered in the Webster bylaw. Mr. Berthiaume noted that the ACLU had challenged the Webster bylaw but failed to reverse it. Mr. Durant noted that if most of the Route 9 corridor was determined to be a restricted area it could be argued that the bylaw was exclusionary. Mr. Pepe commented that this was a topic that should be taken slowly to make sure that it is legal. Mr. Berthiaume asked the Administrative Assistant to forward the Webster bylaw to Town Counsel for review and comment.

Announcements:

Mr. Berthiaume commented on the letter from Town Administrator Gaudette that was submitted to the New Leader which thanked the Town's employees for working with the Selectmen and for the financial sacrifices made which helped the Town balance a budget.

Mr. Berthiaume also noted that the Water Department has implemented a water restriction which limits certain activities such as car washing and irrigation to the hours before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Information on the water restriction is posted on the Town website.

Mr. Durant informed the board that the House budget was introduced last Wednesday and that local aid was level funded and included the \$138k in reversion dollars. Budget debates will take place next week. Mr. Durant told the Board he'd submitted three amendments which included providing for matching grant applications for capital improvements to veterans' halls, fire and police departments and another which limits the executive salaries of non-profit organizations that receive monies from the state, and a greenway bill which has bipartisan support.

Executive Session:

A motion to enter into Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A § 21 ¶ 3 for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Pepe/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Durant-yes, Woodbury-yes, Berthiaume-yes, Pepe-yes, Fritze-yes.

Mr. Berthiaume announced that the Board would reconvene in open session only to adjourn.

The Executive Session ended at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn (Durant/Pepe) passed 5/0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Torti
Administrative Assistant
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

_____ Chairman

_____ Vice Chair

_____ Clerk

_____ Member

_____ Member

Board of Selectmen